

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17, HEADED "CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA."

2. TWO THINGS STAND OUT IN THE EPIDEMIC OF MANIFESTATIONS
AGAINST APARTHEID THAT CONTINUES TO ROCK SOUTH AFRICA; AND
BOTH ARE MENACING, NOT SIMPLY FOR WHITE RULE BUT FOR THE
LONG-RUN CHANCES FOR A PEACEFUL RACIAL AND POLITICAL
EVOLUTION:

3. FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, THE OTHER NON-WHITE SOUTH
AFRICANS--ESPECIALLY THE "COLOREDS" OF CAPE PROVINCE--
HAVE UNITED WITH THE BLACK AFRICAN MAJORITY AGAINST THE
WHITE GOVERNMENT.

4. THE DEMONSTRATIONS--PARTICULARLY THE STRIKES THAT HAVE
BROUGHT INDUSTRIAL JOHANNESBURG CLOSE TO A STANDSTILL TWICE
IN A MONTH--HAVE BEEN PLANNED AND LED BY STUDENTS WHO MAKE
NO SECRET OF THEIR CONTEMPT FOR THE TRADITIONAL BLACK

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LEADERS.

5. "YOU ARE FACING THE LAST GENERATION OF BLACKS WHO ARE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE," THE MAYOR OF THE BLACK SOWETO TOWNSHIP OUTSIDE JOHANNESBURG TOLD GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATORS. BUT THE MAYOR'S OWN HOUSE WAS ALMOST BURNED DOWN BY YOUNG RADICALS; NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIM AND HIS KIND MAY ALREADY BE IRRELEVANT.

6. FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY, SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK LEADERS TRIED PATIENTLY TO NEGOTIATE FOR DIGNITY, EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND A SHARE OF POLITICAL POWER. THEY SOUGHT NOT TO DRIVE OUT THE WHITES BUT TO SHARE WITH THEM IN A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY. BUT THE GOVERNMENT EVEN TODAY IMPRISONS SUCH LEADERS INSTEAD OF NEGOTIATING WITH THEM; AND IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT THE "BLACK POWER" DOCUMENT IS NOW SPREADING RAPIDLY THROUGH THE TOWNSHIPS.

7. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE ONCE-DOCILE "COLOREDS" -- SOUTH AFRICANS OF MIXED RACE--HAVE TAKEN UP WITH COURAGE AND INGENUITY THE REVOLT BEGUN BY SOWETO BLACKS AND MANAGED TO BRING THEIR PROTEST RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF CAPE TOWN. YOUNG INDIANS, TOO, HAVE BRIDGED THE ARTIFICIAL GAP CREATED BY APARTHEID AND, IN INCREASING NUMBERS, JOINED THE STRUGGLE FOR ITS DISMEMBERMENT.

8. THESE DEVELOPMENTS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT SOUTH AFRICA CANNOT FOR LONG BE LEFT OUT OF ANY EQUATION AIMED AT BUILDING PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. SECRETARY KISSINGER IS RIGHT TO CONCENTRATE FIRST ON SOLUTIONS FOR NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA; BUT HE CANNOT PROMISE SOUTH AFRICA A LONG RESPITE IN RETURN FOR ITS HELP WITH THOSE PROBLEMS. AND HE MUST SELECT WITH SOME CARE THE BLACK LEADERS HE CONFERS WITH IN SOUTH AFRICA--OR HE IS LIKELY TO FIND HIS CONVERSATIONS AS IRRELEVANT AS THE MAYOR OF SOWETO NOW SEEMS TO BE. ROBINSON

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